

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 09079 031525Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 9079

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, US

SUBJECT: SADAT'S STATEMENTS RE PEACE TERMS

1. IN CASE YOU MISSED IT, SADAT GAVE CHARLES DEVINE OF
READER'S DIGEST, JUNE 30, FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON HIS VIEWS
RE ME PEACE SETTLEMENT TAKEN FROM FBIS AND CHECKED AGAINST
TODAY'S AL-AKHBAR STORY ON THAT INTERVIEW.

2. REPLYING TO A QUESTION BY MR. DEVINE ON WHETHER A
CHANGE IN U.S. ADMINISTRATION AFTER THE ELECTIONS MIGHT
AFFECT THE ABILITY OF THE UNITED STATES TO PARTICIPATE
IN SOLVING THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM, PRESIDENT AS-SADAT
SAID: I BELIEVE, A CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION MIGHT DELAY
A SOLUTION FOR SOME TIME, BUT IT WILL NOT LEAD TO COMPLICA-
TIONS IN THE U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION.
NATURALLY, THE UNITED STATES HAS THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE THE
PRESIDENT IT THINKS MOST SUITABLE FOR IT. WHAT I HAVE
READ ABOUT CARTER SHOWS THAT HE SUPPORTS A PEACEFUL
SOLUTION.

3. I AM SURE THAT AFTER HAVING MET WITH MANY OF THE
POLITICIANS IN THE UNITED STATES AND SEEN THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE--AND I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ONCE AGAIN THANK
THEM FOR THE WARM HOSPITALITY ACCORDED US DURING OUR LAST
VISIT AND FOR THEIR REAL SENTIMENTS WHICH HAVE GREATLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 09079 031525Z

MOVED US--THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT A PEACEFUL

SOLUTION. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ALSO WANTS A PEACEFUL SOLUTION.

4. IF THERE IS A CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION AFTER THE ELECTIONS, THIS WOULD DELAY THE PEACEFUL SOLUTION FOR SOME TIME AS HAPPENED IN 1974. THE SECOND DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED IN 1974 AND NOT, AS HAPPENED, IN 1975. BUT IN VIEW OF THE WATERGATE ISSUE, THE SECOND DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WAS ELAYED FOR ONE YEAR. I BELIEVE A NEW ADMINISTRATION, IF THERE SHOULD BE ONE, WILL NEED SOME TIME TO STUDY AND ABSORB THE WHOLE SITUATION. AFTER THAT, AS I SAID, AND WHETHER THE NEW PRESIDENT IS DEMOCRATIC OR REPUBLICAN, THE UNITED STATES WILL HOLD 99 PERCENT OF THE CARDS IN THE MIDDLE EAST GAME.

5. MR. DEVINE ASKED PRESIDENT AS-SADAT THIS QUESTION: MR. PRESIDENT, YOU SAID IN FEBRUARY 1974 THAT YOU WOULD NOT RUN AGAIN FOR THE POST OF PRESIDENT IN EGYPT. WHAT MADE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT THAT?

6. REPLYING TO A QUESTION ON THE SOLUTION HE WILL OFFER TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM CONCERNING GAZA, SHARM ASH-SHAYKH, THE PALESTINIANS, THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, SINAI, THE WEST BANK AND THE GULF OF AQABA, PRESIDENT AS-SADAT SAID: FIRST, WE MUST AGREE ON THE BASIC FACT THAT THE ISRAELIS MUST WITHDRAW FROM ALL THE TERRITORIES TO THE 1967 BORDERS, INCLUDING JERUSALEM. WE WILL THEN CONSIDER SINAI.

7. THE PRESIDENT SAID: I WILL AGREE TO THE STATIONING OF UN FORCES IN SHARM ASH-SHAYKH AFTER THE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THERE. THE UN FORCES CAN STAY THERE TO GUARANTEE THE FREEDOM OF SHIPPING. REGARDING THE OTHER INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES, I AM WILLING TO ACCEPT THE PRESENCE OF A UN FORCE IN SHARM ASH-SHAYKH. REGARDING OUR BORDER, I AM ALSO WILLING TO AGREE TO THE PRESENCE OF UN FORCES THERE ALSO, PROVIDED THAT THEY ARE STATIONED ON BOTH SIDES. BUT I WILL BE UNDERSTANDING AND CONSIDERATE CONCERNING THE PROPORTION OF THE AREA TO BE GIVEN FOR THE STATIONING OF THESE FORCES. IF ISRAEL SHOWS A WILLINGNESS TO SOLVE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 09079 031525Z

THE PALESTINE QUESTION COMPLETELY, ITS SHIPS CAN PASS THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL. WE ARE READY FOR THAT IF THEY AREA ALSO READY FOR IT.;

8. REGARDING THE PALESTINIANS, I REQUEST THE SETTING UP OF A PALESTINIAN STATE IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA WITH A CORRIDOR BETWEEN THEM.

9. REGARDING THE GOLAN, THE SYRIANS CAN SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES. ONCE WE HAVE REACHED THIS STAGE, I DO NOT THINK THAT PRESIDENT AL-ASAD, FOR INSTANCE, WILL OBJECT TO THE STATIONING OF OBSERVERS ON THE BORDER. BUT THIS IS SOMETHING ON WHICH I CANNOT DECIDE. IT IS UP TO PRESIDENT AL-ASAD AND SYRIA.

10. THE GREAT CONCESSION WHICH WE WILL MAKE ONCE THE COMPLETE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES TO THE 1967 BORDERS IS ACHIEVED, THE PALESTINE PROBLEM IS SOLVED AND A PALESTINIAN STATE ESTABLISHED, IS THAT WE WILL END THE STATE OF WAR, WHICH HAS EXISTED FOR THE PAST 28 YEARS. WE WILL THEN TRY TO BUILD LASTING PEACE IN THE WHOLE REGION.

11. COMMENT: YOU WILL NOTE THAT SADAT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT A POSSIBLE CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION MIGHT DELAY SOLUTION FOR A TIME PENDING STUDY OF THE PROBLEM BY A NEW ADMINISTRATION. BY PUBLICLY INDICATING THIS, AND HAVING IT PUBLISHED IN CAIRO'S DAILY, AKHBAR, HE IS GIVING HIMSELF SOME BREATHING SPACE IF THINGS DO NOT WORK OUT THE WAY HE WOULD LIKE, I. E., RE-ELECTION OF PRESIDENT FORD. SADAT'S SUBSTANTIVE VIEWS ARE NOT NEW. NOR ARE HIS STATED CONDITIONS FOR ENDING THE STATE OF WAR, E.G., ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE. HE IS TAKING A LEAF OUT OF THE ISRAELI BOOK BY THUS PUBLICLY STATING HIS WILINGNESS TO END THE STATE OF WAR, BUT STIPULATING HIS PRICE FOR DOING SO AND MAKING IT CONSISTENT WITH ARAB ASPIRATIONS. IN PART, OF COURSE, THIS IS FOR GENERAL ARAB CONSUMPTION. HOWEVER, HE IS ALSO SIGNALLING US AND THE ISRAELIS ONCE AGAIN THE EXISTING ISRAELI OFFER IS INADEQUATE. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I KNOW OF THAT HE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 CAIRO 09079 031525Z

HAS PUBLICLY SUGGESTED UN CONTROLLED DMZ ON THE BORDERS MIGHT BE PROPORTIONAL RATHER THAN IDENTICAL IN SIZE, THOUGH HE MADE THIS STATEMENT TO CODEL OBEY LAST AUGUST. EARLIER IN THE INTERVIEW SADAT REAFFIRMED HIS BELIEF GENEVA IS BEST FORUM TO BEGIN INITIAL TALKS AND THAT PLO SHOULD BE REPRESENTED.

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